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'TOP PRIORITY' PANELISTS FOCUS ON TEST BAN

LD261530 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 16 Mar 86

["Top Priority" program]

[Text] On Saturday the United States exploded its first nuclear device at the Yucca Flats site in Nevada since the Soviet Union extended its unilateral test ban to last after the end of March. The blast was codenamed Glen Cove. We now bring you our weekly panel discussion, Top Priority, in which Dr Radomir Boganov and Sergey Plekhanov of the Moscow-based Institute for United States and Canada Studies discuss the positions of the Soviet Union and the United States on the crucial issue of banning nuclear testing. The host of Top Priority is Pavel Kuznetsov of our staff.

[Kuznetsov] In his recent replies to an appeal by the leaders of six nations -- Argentina, Mexico, India, Greece, Sweden, and Tanzania -- to the Soviet Union and the United States to refrain from all nuclear testing in the period leading to their next summit, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev said that this country was extending its unilateral moratorium beyond the expiration date of 31 March until the first such blast in the United States and I suggest that we start with taking a brief look at the history of the Soviet moratorium.

[Bogdanov] Pavel, the history of the Soviet moratorium is really a very glorious history. We started to stop to test our nuclear weapons from 6 August 85. Mind you, we stated that we stopped to test on the date of nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. Then we extended our moratorium once again till 31 March and all the time we were inviting United States to join us in that, saying that if they join us, the moratorium becomes endless, for ever. So, this time answering the leaders of the countries, we again invited United States in a way to join us because there is only one condition that we stop testing, if the United States again joins us and we say that if they start, if they resume their testing, only in that case we will resume our testing.

You know, if you look at that story from different angles, you will see that it has a really tremendous importance for the Soviet-American relations. Everybody at this end and at the American end is saying that what is lacking in the Soviet-American realtion is trust: We cannot build our realtions because there is no trust. I agree with them completely: There is no trust. We have enough grounds to not trust our American partners and in our relations we have several really very hot points which may contribute greatly to the trust-building business or just wipe the slate -- to decrease this very little amount, make no trust at all, in our relations and to decrease it till it is minus zero, something like that. So, moratorium just belongs to that business of trust. If they are really willing to improve relations with us and to signal to us that the American side is genuine in building good relations with the Soviet Union, they have very good opportunity to signal, to demonstrate that to the whole world: stop testing.

Number two: They were claiming all the time, from the top, that this administration has no design to launch a nuclear war strike, that they are a very peace-loving country that just deters the Soviet Union. You know all that bunk we have been hearing for quite a long time. Why I say bunk? Because there is no proof, so far there is no proof that the American side is really willing to cooperate with the Soviet Union in the field of avoiding nuclear war, and the most, you know, substantial signal we could get from the American side on that would be just stopping testing nuclear weapons.

Why, I believe Sergey you have explained to our American listenres why it is so important in that business; but look really, as a student of American politics for the last 25 years I am getting more and more, you know, pessimist in all that. What we have been witnessing now is a kind, you know, of very cheap politics, really very cheap politics, when you have on the table the problem of survival or death and around that you have a kind of, you know, a kind of cheap lies aiming at one, you know, aiming at one point, just to try to find out ways and means to continue to build up American strength, nuclear might in such a way that it will be superior to the Soviet Union. I have no other explanation to that, what they are doing now. Maybe I'm too emotional, I'm sorry, but, you know, as a student, as I said, as a student of the American's policy really I am surprised. I don't know if you put the question to me now, at that juncture, what the future will be for the Soviet-American relations I am a complete pessimist. I really think pessimistically.

[Kuznetsov] We are really jumping a little bit ahead in drawing our conclusions on the future of Soviet-American relations, I'm sorry. Dr Plekhanov why is it so important from at least the military standpoint to stop nuclear tests. Can such a move really contribute to checking the spread of the nukes?

[Plekhanov] Well, Pavel, there are 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world today and there is a widespread consensus in the world that there are much too many. In fact, there is a growing consensus that there should be no nuclear weapons at all and it is practical to talk about reducing and eliminating them altogether. There is really that huge amount of overkill capability and the least that we can do is discontinue testing designed to produce new kinds of nuclear weapons and this is what the story is all about.

Now we have heard from the U.S. Administration that they need to continue testing in order to modernize their nuclear arsenal but why the hell modernize existing nuclear arsenals? If you explode just 1 percent of that arsenal of nuclear weapons that there is in the world today the damage done to the atmosphere, to the environment, will be quite enough in order to make th earth unihabitable. So it really makes no sense, it is really some madness on the rampage to continue modernization, to continue to buildup of nuclear weapons and this fact was recognized by the U.S. Government when it was almost ready to sign a comprehensive test ban treaty in the late seventies. The treaty as almost ready and then the U.S. side decided to discontinue negotiations with the Soviet Union on the subject, apparently because there were some ideas in the military quarters in the United States about new kinds of weapons and now we see that it is not just the offensive nuclear weapons, not just the bombs and the warheads for the missiles, but also the new kinds of strategic defense, of space weapons.

[Kuznetsov] Such nuclear weapons are the source of energy for those systems and subsystems of star wars?

[Plekhanov] Of a particular system which is called the X-ray laser. Another thing which is important is that, you know, even underground testing, even though underground testing is not as harmful as the atmospheric testing, it still is bad for the environment. You know there are scientists in various parts of the world who measure the elvels of radioactivity and I read a recent report about the historical changes in the levels of radioactivity.

In the seventies when the amount of, when the number of nuclear explosions in the world declined because there was a milder and more relaxed international atmosphere, we had detente, the levels of radiation markedly declined; in the eighties there has been again an increase in the levels of radioactivity and that is connected with the fact that there have been more tests. So, even on that ground I think it would be a good thing to stop testing.

[Kuznetsov] Now what was the response of the White House to the latest Soviet initiative, to the latest Soviet step that is extending the unilateral Soviet moratorium beyond the expiration date of 31 March? They have rejected also the efforts to make our moratorium a mutual one and ignored our almost 8-month restraint. We have partially covered the reasons why and still I want more (?stronger) answers to this.

[Bogdanov] You know, my difficulty is just the last part of your question. Why? Because there are so many why's on the American side and there are so many arguments that I am really puzzled which one is the valid one for the time being and I am really sorry for my American friends over there -- they have to listen to all these arguments almost every day and I can imagine how they are confused because really speaking, every week, every second week, we have a new argument why the American administration cannot join the Soviet Union in the moratorium.

[Kuznetsov] OK. Let's take a look at some of them, like on verification and control.

[Bogdanov] You know, Pavel, let me say the first thing, you know. If you have no desire to join the other side, with such excellent brains as this administration has, you can produce another thousand arguments just convincing the others, their own fellows, that they cannot join, you know. So, argument -- there is no problem with arguments; there is a problem with the truth. Why the truth? Because arguments on this particular business belong rather to a very imaginatory world which has nothing to do with the real one. We have witnessed a number of arguments beginning from the statement that the Soviet Union has already in such a way improved its nuclear weapons that America has to catch up with it. The second argument was that the Soviet Union was against verification and control. And the last one is very nearly the truth, which is as [name indistinct] put it: We need to modernize our nuclear arsenal but they don't say the second half of the truth -- what for? Just to gain superiority over the Soviet Union. All that you need for one thing, just to intimidate the Soviet Union, to coerce it, and just to try to play the Soviet Union the American tune. [as heard] That is all. There is no other reason. If you really tell the truth -- what for they need it? And I am afraid whatever convincing argument we can really suggest to our American listeners they will not play any role because we have a very strange world now at the American end; the world which has nothing to do with the reality, which has to do for this administration with only one thing, how to convince the American public that the Soviet Union is a very bad guy and you need all the time to spend money to build up American might just to deter this bad guy. That is all, it has nothing to do with the reality but it has to do with American domestic policy and in that imaginatory, unreal world, I am sorry you are hopeless, you are hopeless because whatever you say at the other end they will say their own thing just to try to convince their own. So what is left to us is just to use our own common-sense of the American view. Let them themselves find out where it is.

[Kuznetsov] You wanted to say something?

[Plekhanov] Yes I wanted to touch upon briefly those arguments which have been advanced. Dr Bogdanov has touched on the basic thing and that is that they do want to continue testing.

Now, I would like to talk a little bit about why the other arguments, because you know simply a desire to continue testing, it is not a very persuasive argument, it can also be beaten very easily. But how about those objections and all kinds of buts and its. Number one, verification -- now that is an old chestnut and the United States have been saying for a long time that well, you know, you in the Soviet Union, you are a closed society; we in America are an open society and so we must have adequate means of verification that you guys are complying with the treaty. We can't build treaties on trust. Neither can we and we are very much interested in the business of verification and the United States is not such an open society after all and we are not as closed a society as they are trying to portray us. How the question of monitoring the tests has been adequately resolved by the existence of a very sophisticated seismological devices. The United States has about 200 seismological stations which are constantly listening to whatever goes on in this area in the Soviet Union.

[Kuznetsov] How many do we have of those?

[Plekhanov] We have about 20 and the problem that we have is that our stations are not as near the American territory as the Americans are because we don't have countries like, you know, Turkey and Pakistan -- military allies of the United States -- or West Germany, which allow it to place those stations close to our territory. We have just 20 and they are much farther away from American than the Americans' are from ours but still those 20 are absolutely adequate to perform the job of monitoring American tests. But still if the United States thinks and insists that they need to have on-site inspection, that they need to put devices inside the Soviet territory and be able to send their observers and so on and so forth, we decided that we can make a step forward and say okay, let's have on-site inspections as well. And the moment we made that admission the question of verification was immediately swept off the table.

[Bogdanov] No, no, Sergey, you are not right. This argument can also be beaten very easily. What you say is just propaganda, nothing else.

[Kuznetsov] Well, if you don't agree to it, then it is propaganda accordingly.

[Bogdanov] Yes, that is why I say that argument can also be beaten very easily and that it is why I am sure you know...

[Kuznetsov -- interrupting] It is like saying I offer you $10 if you know this is just propaganda.

[Bogdanov] Yes, exactly.

[Plekhanov] Yes, and Sergey, I'd like to back you up on what you said with a brief quote from THE NEW YORK TIMES news service. It was written by Flora Lewis in February and I quote: Without quite admitting it, the Reagan administration has turned America's formal policy on nuclear testing on its head. This could be veiled so long as the Soviets refused verification measures to make sure any cheating could be immediately detected. But now Mikhail Gorbachev said: The Soviet Union is agreeable to the most strict control over a ban on nuclear weapons tests, including on-site inspections and on the use of all achievements in seismology but, she goes on to say, instead of renewing negotiatins with the Soviets on a comprehensive test ban, broken off by President R[illegible], Washington has reversed its argument.

Yes, you know their reversing arguments in my view is like undressing in public. Don't they realize that what can be done on a public beach and not on every beach, well it's kind of like-minded for politicians.

As far as the beaches are concerned it just occurred to me that others are saying that you can take a horse to the water but you can't make it drink. I mean there is a problem there. If you really don't want to do something you always produce a new argument against it.

There is another thing which I'd like to touch upon and that is the argument that the United States needs to continue testing in order to check on the existing arsenals. Not just to modernize, not just to come up with a new weapon, but to see if the old ones are not rusty, so to say. This is called reliability testing. But this argument was raised before by some people in the Pentagon in the late seventies when the Carter administration was negotiating the comprehensive test ban and the scientists, the military scientists, who were studying the problem at the time, they came up with definite answers. Reliability testing is not necessary in order to check that the bombs are in order. You can perform the checking in the laboratories. You don't need to poison the earth by testing bombs to see that they are working properly so the existing stockpiles can be checked and stay reliable without tests. So that argument again holds no water.

U.S. 'UNILATERALLY DISCARDING' ABM TREATY

LD262001 Moscow TASS in English 1941 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 26 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev.

On March 22, the world was indignant at glaring militaristic actions of the U.S. Administration. Despite numerous calls of the Soviet Union, other countries, broad public of the USA, a nuclear weapon test was staged in the USA. This gives more evidence that Washington's real aim is not reduction and elimination of nuclear arms, but, quite the contrary, their build-up, creation of new and ever more destructive types of nuclear arms.

The new explosion and the refusal to resume talks on a comprehensive test ban also show the unwillingness of the U.S. administration to observe the existing agreements. Quite recently, joint congressional resolution number three, endorsed by the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, declared that the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosive treaty bind the USA to press for the cessation of all nuclear weapon testing for ever. But the present U.S. leadership views the earlier assumed obligations to its striving to achieve military strategic superiority for the United States.

Persisting with the nuclear arms race and speeding up work under the "star wars" program, Washington intends to go back on the treaties and agreements signed earlier, above all the ABM Treaty and SALT-2 Treaty. This is shown by statements made recently by U.S. officials.

Thus, U.S. Assistanct Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, addressing a subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee declared outright that a large-scale ABM system with space-basing elements should be launched "whether or not the Russians will agree to negotiate the revision" of the ABM Treaty. Meanwhile, even at the present stage of the implementation of the "star wars" program, which Washington tries to present as a "research" program, he declared for a broad interpretation of the treaty so as to hold armaments tests.

As is known, according to this "broad interpretation" invented in the USA only six months ago, contrary to the interpretation of the ABM Treaty by the Soviet Union and four U.S. Administrations, it is alleged that the development and testing of systems and components of "exotic" armaments -- lasers, beam weapons, etc. are not prohibited under the treaty at all.

Addressing legislators, Perle, quite unabashed, set out a program of eroding the ABM Treaty which is one of the fundamentals of the process of arresting the arms race, the program that envisages a transition from the present violations under the signboard of "broad interpretation" and then to unilaterally discarding the treaty altogether and deploying armaments created under the "star wars" program.

The SALT-2 Treaty is also under a threat. Next May the U.S. Navy plans to launch the eighth atomic "Trident" submarine -- "Nevada." If the USA does not take compensatory measures, for instance, dismantle two old "Poseidon" submarines, the ceiling for launchers of MIRVed missiles set by the SALT-2 Treaty will be surpassed. Some people in Washington have already declared against the United States adhering to the treaty, and apologists of "star wars" are in their lead.

The Strategic Defence Initiative organization leaders stubbornly declare for keeping all the existing "Poseidon" submarines in the U.S. Navy since, according to the Pentagon, they are ideadly suited to serving as launch pads for "exotic weapons" -- X-ray lasers with nuclear pumping. So it is not only the ABM Treaty, but also the SALT-2 Treaty that interferes with "stellar warriors" and so they declare that their provisions should not be observed.

All this shows that some people in Washington persist in thinking in old categories. This makes one recall a recommendation to U.S. President Harry Truman in a secret report on the American-Soviet relations drawn up for him: The United States with its military potential consisting above all of highly effective armaments should not support any proposals on disarmament or arms limitation. And it is such "recommendations" that they in Washington try to follow now, losing sight of the fact that now it is 1986, not 1946.

It is time for the U.S. leadership to realize that this policy only poses new threats to peoples, the American people along with them. Mutual security nowadays requires a new way of thinking. The awareness that this security can be achieved only by political means, on the road of talks and preservation of existing arrangements.

COMMENTATOR PRAISES NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

PM261129 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 22 Mar 86 p 3

[International observer G. Dadyants article: "To Heed the Voice of Reason"]

[Text] The question of ending nuclear tests remains at the center of the attention of all the world's peoples. It is a question of a problem of paramount importance, on whose solution the fate of nuclear disarmament depends.

The Soviet approach to this problem is clear: The USSR has introduced a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and has been abiding by it for more than 7 months now. Although the moratorium expires 31 March, M.S. Gorbachev declared in his reply to the appeal from the leaders of six countries -- Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden, and Greece -- that the Soviet Union will not conduct nuclear explosions even after 31 March -- until the first nuclear explosion in the United States.

And the United States? Over the past year it has conducted 15 nuclear explosions, including 7 even after the Soviet moratorium came into effect.

The last explosion in the Nevada desert at the end of the 1985 had a yield 10 times greater than the bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima and was a constituent part of the research connected with creating [sozdaniye] nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers within the framework of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" proclaimed by R. Reagan. Despite the restraint shown by the Soviet Union, a new explosion is now being prepared, scheduled for April. As THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reports, a nuclear charge will be exploded under conditions close to those that exist in space, and the results will be used for the same "star wars" program.

All this can only be viewed as a real challenge to world public opinion. The U.S. Administration is clearly gambling on achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union. This runs directly counter to the aims jointly announced at the Soviet-American summit talks in Geneva.

Under the conditions which have come about the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium appealed to the U.S. Congress to do all in its power to ensure that the U.S. position accords with resolving the task of ending nuclear task in accordance with the will of the peoples and their ardent desire to ensure lasting peace on earth.

None of the arguments advance by the U.S. Administration to justify its reluctance to subscribe to the Soviet moratorium and end nuclear tests stands up to criticism. The BALTIMORE SUN bluntly relegates them to the "sphere of nuclear mythology." In particular, the argument that nuclear explosions are "impossible to monitor" [kontrolirovat] is a flimsy one. Scientific means have existed for many years which make it possible to accurately record even small underground explosions conducted thousands of miles away. In addition, the Soviet Union has publicly declared that it is prepared, in the event of a mutual moratorium being established, to reach agreement with the United States on the verification [kontrol] measures with a view to removing possible doubts about the moratorium's observance -- right down to international on-site verification [kontrol] and inspections [inspektsii].

Nor does another "argument" stand up to criticism. It has recently been advanced by the U.S. Administration, seeking to justify its negative stand on the question of banning nuclear explosions, and it alleges that the United States conducts nuclear test just to check the "reliability" of the existing nuclear arsenals. In fact, the American tests are conducted to modernize nuclear weapons and strengthen their destructive combat properties.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium appeal to the U.S. Congress to end nuclear weapon tests without delay has been perceived by broad circles of the world public as new evidence of the Soviet Union's good will and of its desire to break the vicious circle of arms race and achieve the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. Numerous foreign press organs, public organizations, and also the participants in the session of the Socialist International Consultative Council on Disarmament, which has been held in Oslo these days, have come out in support of the Soviet initiative. They have urged the United States to follow the USSR's example and emphasized the pressing need to take other urgent measures to reach specific accords at the Soviet-American talks in Geneva.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium appeal is one more attempt to make the U.S. ruling circles heed the voice of reason, overcome the logic of confrontation, and free mankind from the nuclear threat handing over it. At the same time, it is obvious that the USSR cannot endlessly display unilateral restraint in the face of the provocative stand taken by the U.S. Administration on the question of nuclear tests.

SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES U.S.-LIBYAN CLASH

LD270850 Moscow TASS in English 0841 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 27 TASS -- TASS correspondent V. Chernyshev reports:

The U.N. Security Council, which was urgently convened at the USSR's request, started on Wednesday a discussion of the exceptionally dangerous situation in the southern Mediterranean, which had emerged as a result of the defiant aggressive actions of the USA against Libya.

There is no doubt about the deliberate character of the U.S. brigand attack on Libya, said Yu.V. Dubinin, USSR permament representative to the U.N. For a long time now, Libya has been a target of the open U.S. military, political and economic blackmail. Threats and slanders against the Libya leaders have been issued in Washington in an unending stream. American officials have gone so far as to discuss impudently in public plans for a "physical elimination" of the Libyan leadership.

The United States armed attack on Libya was an act of aggression against an independent and sovereign Arab state, which had been conceived, planned and prepared in advance. It has resulted in a sharp aggravation of tensions in that area and created a real threat to international peace and security. At hand is open policy of state terrorism, impudent disregard of the U.N. Charter and the generally recognized norms of international law, the fundamental principles of inter-state relations.

It is common knowledge what are the causes of the growing aggressiveness of the USA against Libya, the Soviet representative stressed. In Washington they do not conceal that they are unhappy about Libya's independent anti-imperialist policy in the international arena, her strong opposition to the attempts of the USA and Israel at forcing separate capitulatory deals on the Arabs. It clearly goes against the grain with them that Libya firmly opposes the claims of the U.S. Administration to play the master in the developing countries, as if they were its home. Therefore the imperialist attack is spearheaded against Libya as well as Nicaragua. This is an attack launched today against all the developing countries, the whole Non-Aligned Movement. The intention is to show for everybody to see that if crude reprimands from Washington cannot bring about a change in their independent policy, the USA always has its Navy and aircraft at the ready to "put things in order" according to Washington's neocolonialist prescriptions.

Washington's criminal act against Libya is another telltale manifestation of the policy of "neoglobalism" proclaimed by the U.S. Administration. It is the immediate duty of the Security Council, he stressed, to condemn resolutely the aggression perpetrated by the USA, to take necessary actions to stop it and carry out effective measures to protect Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Security Council can under no circumstances reconcile itself to the state of war threatening to engulf the whole of the Mediterranean, George Agius, Malta's permanent representative to the U.N., said. No threat or use of force an be allowed, the more so when it comes to actions of a U.N. member country at a distance of thousands of miles from its shores and in conditions of massing by it of a powerful air force and naval armada on the plea of holding endless exercises.

The peoples of the Mediterranean are strongly opposed to the use of their national territory as bases and springboards of aggression against the non-aligned Mediterranean states, he said.

In face of the comdemnation of the brigand actions of the United States, Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative to the U.N., found nothing better but to reiterate the false pretexts and accusations by which Washington is trying to justify its aggression. He again threatened the use of force against Libya.

The Security Council will carry on the debate on the situation jeopardizing peace, which emerged as a result of the U.S. armed attack on Libya.

LIBYAN ENVOY ENDORSES GORBACHEV SPEECH ON LIBYA

LD262344 Moscow TASS in English 2254 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 26 TASS -- The statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a Kremlin dinner in honor of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party, has laid bare the bandit and aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism and uncovered the true motives behind the policy that threatens peace in the world over, Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, permanent representative of Libya at the United Nations, told the TASS in an interview. Washington stages provocations all over the world -- in the Mediterranean, in the Korean Peninsula and the Indian Ocean. It threatens peoples of all developing countries which pursue independent policies. Washington's objective, as the statement of the Soviet leader convincingly demonstrated, is to impose global American hegemony on nations.

On behalf of Libya Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab expressed gratitude and appreciation of the constructive position taken by the U.S.S.R. with regard to the aggressive U.S. action and of the solidarity expressed by Mikhail Gorbachev with the Libyan people defending their sacred right to freedom and independence.

NATO SECRETARY CARRINGTON VISITS ICELAND

LD262127 Moscow TASS in English 2027 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 26 TASS -- Secretary General of the North Atlantic bloc Lord Carrington arrived in Iceland and inspected the NATO base in Keflavic, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reports. Speaking in Reykjavik, Lord Carrington emphasized in every way Iceland's "strategic role" in NATO. "The alliance depends for its strength on the Atlantic serving as a bridge between North America and Western Europe", he asserted. "Iceland is in a sense part of that bridge".

The United States intends to increase its military presence in Iceland. The ASSOCIATED PRESS report says that while inspecting the military base, Carrington viewed construction of a new terminal at the base. According to the Pentagon's plan, two radar stations will be modernized and two new ones will be built in the southern part of Iceland. These measures are part of the U.S. Administration for the militarization of the North Atlantic, for creating new bridgeheads for future aggressive actions. Over 3,000 U.S. servicemen are stationed in Iceland now. F-4 and F-15 fighter bombers, P-3 "Orion" naval reconnaissance planes and two AWACS aircraft are based in Iceland. The Pentagon makes no secret of the fact that military preparations in the region are spearheaded against countries of the socialist community.

FURTHER REACTION TO EVENTS IN GULF OF SIDRA

Gorbachev 'Denounces' U.S. Acts

LD261649 Moscow TASS in English 1646 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The imperial, bandit face of neoglobalist policy has become clearly visible in the past few days, Mikhail Gorbachev said in the Kremlin today. The day before yesterday, American weapons were used against independent and sovereign Libya. Now the USA is not stinting words to justify that act of aggression. Facts irrefutably show, however, that it is not an unexpected incident but a "punitive" operation conceived and planned in advance.

It is not today that Libya has become a target. The provocative and threatening manoeuvres of American ships off its coast have become permament. And what about a trade, financial and technological blockade of Libya and other discriminatory measures against it? They can only be qualified as economic terror! And look at the psychological andpropaganda warfare that has been waged against Libya over the months!

The actions of the United States constitute a challenge to the world public as a whole and an encroachment on commonly recognized civilized relations. This policy is provoking regional conflicts and jeopardizing international peace and security. It is directed against all the independent peoples and contravenes the interests of the American people as well.

We resolutely denounce the aggressive anti-Libyan actions of the USA. The Soviet Union is in solidarity with the Libyan people. Standing up for their sacred right to freedom and independence from imperialist encroachments, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee today delivered a speech at the dinner given in the Kremlin in honour of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party.

U.S. 'Deliberately Provoked' Clash

LD262029 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- The United States' attack on sovereign Libya, during which a rocket and bombing strike was dealt on the suburbs of Surt and a number of other targets were hit, has been a thoroughly prepared provocation endorsed at the highest level in Washington. As THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper reports, a decision on much stronger measures against Libya was taken at a meeting in the White House in July last with President Reagan present. The newspaper writes that this was followed by "a series of discussions, studies, interagency meetings, and even military targeting plans on Libya." Moreover, the question of dealing pre-emptive strikes on Libya was studied.

A top-secret CIA study dated several days after the meeting in July in the White House "analyzed the pros and cons of pre-emptive military action and concluded that the administration had an opportunity to redraw the map of North Africa." It follows from the article that the Pentagon considered [words indistinct] versions of Libya's armed invasion. It was, specifically, estimated that 90,000 servicemen will be needed for the invasion.

It follows from the article in WASHINGTON POST that John Poindexter, the now assistant to the President for national security affairs, was the main coordinator of anti-Libyan plans. He made a trip to the Middle East in September last to work out plans of joined armed actions against Libya with other countries of the region.

"Aircraft carrier operations north of Libya were ordered in late January," WASHINGTON POST writes. In this connection THE NEW YORK TIMES, quoting officials of the administration, points out that Reagan decided to send Navy vessels into the Gulf of Sidra after being told that this would almost certainly lead to a military confrontation with Libya. In other words, the United States deliberately provoked Tripoli to a clash.

Georgiy Kim Comments

LD262027 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Speaking in TASS interviews, Soviet people said it is becoming a rule that wherever U.S. warships and warplanes appear, the smell of gunpowder and blood starts floating form the place right away. The interviewed protested the U.S. military's firing at targets in Libya and intrusions into the territorial waters of that independent country.

"One need not be a prophet to see a connection between the recent vote in U.S. Congress on aid to Nicaraguan 'contras' and the act of piracy in the Gulf of Sidra," said Georgiy Kim, director of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Soviet Academy of Sciences. "Every time the U.S. Administration needs further funding to whip up tension or bankroll a fresh batch of mercenaries, another act of international terrorism is quick to occur. The provocative maneuvers off independent Libya have aimed to heighten tension and demonstrated Washington's disdain for the right of sovereign nations."

"American strategy-makers call such provocations 'low-intensity conflicts' But each of them means death, blood and human suffering," Kim said. "The guns aimed at Libya threaten all states unwilling to bend the knee to the overseas strategists with their imperial ambitions."

Sergey Tsitovich, a Soviet specialist helping to build a gas pipeline in Libya, said: "Using armed force, Washington endeavors to bring whole nations to their knees, proclaims governments objectionable and breaks international norms and rules."

"Washington's adventurism is a threat to the entire world," he went on to say. "The escalation of the arms race, its extension to outer space, the continued nuclear testing, the violations of the borders of independent states -- don't the U.S. strategists see where the policy of state-backed terrorism is leading?"

Libyan Diplomat Cited

LD261857 Moscow TASS in English 1833 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- U.S. imperialism has again tried to subvert the progressive regime of Libya, disliked by its because it is pursuing an independent policy and giving support to the peoples fighting for their rights, Professor Konstantin Varlamov, a member of the Presidium of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and a notable Soviet historian, said here today at a Soviet public meeting devoted to the 16th anniversary of the withdrawal of British troops from Libyan territory.

The withdrawal of British troops, Varlamov noted, marked the beginning of the liberation of the country from imperialist diktat. Two months later the Libyan people took the final step on that road by closing the U.S. Wheelus Field Air Force Base. The United States had been using that base to exert political and military pressure on Libya and neighbouring Arab countries and to protect the interests of oil monopolies.

Today, 16 years after the withdrawal of British troops from Libya, the Soviet historian continued, imperialism is still attempting to trample the rights and freedom of the people of that country. By shooting at targets in Libya, Washington reaffirmed its source of inciting tension in various parts of the world.

The Soviet people, Varlamov said, have always sided themselves with the Libyans in their just anti-imperialist struggle. Today, at a time of trial for Libya, we also are supporting the desire of the Libyan people to decide their destiny independently. We demand an end to U.S. military blackmail of Libya.

Addressing the audience, Muhammad H. Sha'ban, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah in the USSR, spoke highly of the Soviet Union's principled stand and its continuous support for the just struggle of the Libyan people.

The meeting was attended by the heads and staff of the diplomatic missions of Palestine, Syria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, other Arab countries and also by Arab students who study in Moscow.

WEINBERGER NEWS CONFERENCE PART OF 'NEOGLOBALISM'

LD261329 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has held a special news conference in the Pentagon, which was telecast by Worldnet International Network. The news conference was timed for the Defense Department's publication of its 5th edition of a propaganda pamphlet called "Soviet Military Power" and meant to "corroborate" the Reagan administration's allegations about a "growing war threat" from the USSR.

The trotting out of the latest fabrication-laden booklet by Washington hawks and the Pentagon chief's public appearance to advertise it have been part of a series of steps by the White House of late to justify its imperial "neoglobalism" strategy proclaiming the U.S. "right" to interfere in the domestic affairs of any state.

Employing disinformation, doctored facts and falsehoods about "Soviet global ambitions", the masterminds of this smear campaign are out to draw world pubic attention away from their own feverish military preparations. They are keen to cushion the impact of the Soviet initiatives on world public opinion and keep their NATO and other allies and partners in leash.

Commentators point to the deliberate timing of the publication of the militarist booklet of falsehoods and the official ceremony at which it was launched. Washington went ahead with them after the USSR had declared its readiness to extend its moratorium on nuclear explosions beyond March 31 until the first nuclear blast in the United States, and also after the Soviet Union had reiterated its commitment to keeping outer space free from arms and proposed a far-reaching, historic plan for abolishing all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Set against this background, the claims by the pamphlet and by the Pentagon chief that the Soviet Union had only one concern on its mind, and that was to achieve world domination and unleash a nuclear war, are at least ludicrous.

It is the United States rather than the USSR that has been resisting any measures to contain the arms race and improve the international political climate and accelerating its massive buildup of arms and armed forces even further every year. The Pentagon wants Congress, for example, to approve military appropriations for fiscal 1987 at an unprecedented total of more than 320 billion dollars. The U.S. Administration is pulling out all the stops to spread the arms race to outer space and speeding up the development of newest kinds of weaponry, including particle-beam, laser and other systems.

In an insolent challenge to mankind, the United States a few days ago staged another nuclear blast at a testing site in Nevada. Laying claims on world ascendancy, Washington arbitrarily proclaims almost the entire planet a sphere of its "vital interests". To "establish order" there the U.S. military is raising special forces of professional punitive troops and expanding its bases across the world. It is with U.S dollars that gangs of hired terrorists are waging undeclared wars on Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola and other sovereign states.

Guided by the "neoglobalism" doctrine, the Pentagon the other day overtly committed aggressive military actions against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. So it is not fortuitous that Weinberger at his news conference declared categorically once again for a continued buildup of U.S. Armed Forces and armaments. Even now more than half a million U.S. troops are stationed abroad, performing what in effect are policing functions. Such is the truth.

And no matter how much on the Potomac they talk about a mythical "Soviet threat" in defiance of logic and common sense, no matter how many blatantly slanderous pamphlets about the Soviet Union they circulate and no matter how hard they try to convince world public opinion of their "commitment to peace", the world's nations know that the war threat is emanating from the United States.

This was admitted in his time by prominent public figure George Kennan, formerly U.S. ambassador to the USSR, who said in the NEW YORKER magazine that material and psychological preparations for war had become a deeply ingrained tradition not only with the U.S. Armed Forces but also with a significant part of U.S. civilian society.

U.S. 'FABRICATED'CHARGE OF NICARAGUAN INCURSION

LD262109 Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- TASS commentator Nikolay Chigir writes: The Washington administration, described by THE NEW YORK TIMES as obsessed with hatred of Nicaragua and caring neither for common sense and humanity nor for security, keeps fomenting anti-Nicaraguan hysteria. Its aim is to bring the Sandinist government down at all costs.

The results of the house vote on the administration's request for 100 million dollars in aid to "contras" gangs, seen both in the United States itself and elsewhere as a stinging political defeat for the White House, have by no means sobered the U.S. ruling elite up. It is continuing its massive effort to persuade congressmen and U.S. public opinion, by hook or by crook, to endorse its policy of launching a large-scale aggression against Nicaragua. The campaign involves Washington's stock arsenal of falsehoods, disinformation and slander.

The U.S. Administration is now playing another marked card in its dangerous game in Central America. Acting on instructions from the White House, which is a fact confirmed by the U.S. media, its secret services have fabricated and floated an allegation that Nicaraguan troops have made a thrust into Honduran territory and are fighting there.

Immediately after that President Reagan announced the appropriation of an extra 20 million dollars from the Pentagon's budget to Honduras to "help it protect itself from Nicaragua." The Honduran authorities, which are completely dependent on Washington, did the latter's bidding and put their troops in the areas bordering Nicaragua on alert.

There, of course, was not, and could not be, any "incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras" and the Sandinist government declared this most definitely.

Neither Washington nor Tegucigalpa, incidentally, could cite even a single fact to corroborate their anti-Nicaraguan charges, while facts exposing Washington's lies were reported by the U.S. mass media themselves.

At the very time Washington officialdom was raising its uproar over "the Sandinist aggression" a correspondent of the U.S. television network NBC, Mr Murphy, visited the Nicaraguan-Honduran border but did not discover anything there that would correspond to the provocative claims by the White House even in the slightest degree. Reporting from there, he said that there was nothing out of the ordinary anywhere there and that right on the border he saw troops looking across towards Honduras without any special interest. Murphy added that the men accompanying him and himself had been allowed to come to as close as 50 meters from the border and nobody had obstructed them in any way.

Foreign wire services identified Elliot Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, as one of the masterminds behind the latest provocative anti-Nicaraguan allegation. Right after the administration's setback in the house vote on aid to "contras" he visited Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica on President Reagan's instructions, where he held "secret" talks with the local authorities. The press still learnt that his prime mission was to prode them into giving still more solid support for the U.S. aggressive policy against Nicaragua and taking an even more active part in the anti-Nicaraguan militarist provocations engineering by the United States.

Ignoring the world community's demands for an immediate end to the aggressive activities against Nicaragua as well as warnings by U.S. Congressmen that Washington's current policy could land the United States in a war like the one in Vietnam, the Reagan administration continues its dangerous playing with fire, a game fraught with unpredictable consequences, in Central America and other parts of the world.

DUBININ CITED ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD UN

LD212157 Moscow TASS in English 2006 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 21 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Chernyshev reports:

The hostile and unlawful actions taken by the USA against the United Nations and its member countries are viewed by the international community as a major political act of subversion against the very principle of international cooperation and against the foundations of the United Nations and its prestige and Charter.

The escalation of a war on the United Nations by the U.S. Administration is a flagrant breach of international law, Czechoslovakia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Jaroslav Cesar, has stated. Addressing the U.N. Committee on Relations With the Host Country, the United States, he said that the unprecedented actions of the USA could not be viewed out of the context of the overall tendency of American foreign policy. The right-wing forces which came to power in the USA made a sharp turn from detente to policy from armed stength and are rejecting goodneighbourliness and co-operation as principles of world development.

Hostile actions are being taken by the United States at a time when the peoples of the world are looking forward to a turn for the better in international relations. There is no room for such policy in the United Nations, he stressed.

The U.S. Administration has shown on more than one occasion in the past, too, its disregard for its commitments to the United Nations, the Soviet Union's permanent representative to the United Nations, Yu.V. Dubinin, said. Now it has taken another step in escalating this policy. It encroaches on the sovereign rights of the U.N. member countries and tries to arrogate to itself, in the teeth of the U.N. Charter and international accords stemming from it, the right arbitrarily to intervene in the affairs of the missions of other states at the United Nations. The arbitrary stand taken by the U.S. Administration means a blow at the rights of all the U.N. members, a blow at the rights and prerogatives of the United Nations as a whole. The U.S. action constitutes a major political act of subversion against the United Nations.

Washington has set out to institutionalize policy from strength as a norm of relationships between the USA and the most prestigeous international organization. What all this amounts to is a manifestation of the overall approach from strength, practiced by the U.S. Administration in international relations. Here, at the United Nations, we are witnessing another episode of this policy from strength, an attempt to put the USA above all the other states and to dictate conditions to them. This pressure is being exerted also in other areas and in very different forms, in particular, in attempted financial diktat contrary to the decisions of the General Assembly. This arbitrariness has assumed such a scope and such outrageous forms that the USA is being criticised more and more scathingly by a large number of U.N. member states.

The point in case is a major question of principle, the protection of the sovereign rights of the U.N. member countries and of democratic principles in international relations against the dictatorial encroachments of those who are laying claim to the right to impose their will on the rest of the world.

The worry voiced by the delegations of different U.N. member countries is therefore quite understandable. Though today it is the missions of the USSR and a number of other countries that are exposed to arbitrariness, it is clear to everyone that tomorrow this practice, unless effectively repulsed, can affect any other mission. Washington thinks, to all appearances. that the activities of the international organizations, reflecting the will of the overwhelming majority of states, are at odds with the global interests of the USA, its transnational corporations and its military-industrial complex.

The escalation by the U.S. Administration of a hostile campaign against the United Nations, the Soviet spokesman said in conclusion, is taking place at a time when the other countries are making efforts to consolidate the incipient tendency for dialogue and for a search of ways to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among states.

The chairman of the Committee on Relations With the Host Country, Constantine Moushoutas, the permanent representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, said that the committee would continue closely to follow that important matter.

TASS NOTES GROWTH IN U.S. FUNDS FOR ESPIONAGE

LD261320 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- The U.S. Administration is planning to set aside a total of 24 billion dollars for the U.S. secret services in the 1987 fiscal year, the newspaper WASHINGTON POST said today.

It is easy to guess what these funds are specifically spent on. Over the period of the stay of the Reagan administration in power, the scale of the CIA's subversive operations has increased several-fold, special emphasis being laid on acts of sabotage by that espionage department against the developing states, above all against Nicaragua, Angola, Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The CIA is to spend in the current year half a million dollars on operations against those sovereign states, the newspaper claims. In the 1987 fiscal year the CIA's total budget will be nearly 2.8 billion dollars.

More than four billion dollars are to be set aside in the next fiscal year for the National Security Agency, which specialises in electronic espionage, wire-tapping and inteception of radio communication. The main object of that unlawful activity are the socialist countries. Yet, the electronic tentacles of the National Security Agency ever more often reach out to U.S. citizens.

The biggest recipient of intelligence information in the USA is the Pentagon, which has been admitted in particular, by Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defence in his address to the closed door hearings in Congress. Military espionage satellites are launched in the USA, specially equipped U.S. Air Force planes fly secret espionage missions over the territory of sovereign states. Last year the Pentagon began implementing a programme for secret flights over Nicaragua of unmanned planes guided by radio. Espionage equipment is installed in warships and submarines. The American cruiser and destroyer, which were on a provocative msision in the Soviet territorial waters off the shores of the Crimea, were fitted out with espionage equipment to "test the Soviet defence system".

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CHICAGO

LD211836 Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 21 TASS -- Katya Lycheva was met at the Chicago airport by American children who gave her bunches of roses. She came to the U.S. at the invitation of the "Children as Peacemakers" organization. Her trip is devoted to the memory of Samantha Smith -- the American girl who dreamed of peace and friendship between children and peoples of the USSR and the U.S. "I hope that my journey will contribute just a little bit to the cause of peace", Katya Lycheva said in answer to greetings.

During her two-week tour of the U.S. she will meet with American children of her age in Chicago, New York, Washington, Houston and Los Angeles.

SHEVARDNADZE MEETS DPRK'S KIM YONG-NAM IN MOSCOW

LD262250 Moscow TASS in English 2234 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today met with Kom Yong-nam, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, deputy chairman of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, who made a brief stopover in Moscow en route home from a tour of African countries.

During the meeting the sides exchanged information on current domestic and foreign policies of the USSR and the DPRK.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized that the Soviet Union would continue to follow the policy of allround strengthening and development of cooperation with the DPRK and would support the efforts and initiatives aimed at lessening military and political tensions in the Korean peninsula, strengthening peace in Korea, and achieving a peaceful reunification of the country.

Further Report on Talks

LD270008 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Comrade Shevardnadze met Kim Yong-nam, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, deputy premier of the Administrative Council, and DPRK minister of foreign affairs, who was making a brief stopover in Moscow on his way home from a tour of African countries.

Comrade Shevardnadze acquainted Kim Yong-nam with primary measures in the fulfillment of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, paying particular attention to tasks to fulfill the program to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of the present century and to advance the concept of an all-embracing international security.

Kim Yong-nam replied that the DPRK leadership highly assesses the results of the 27th CPSU Congress and the program documents adopted at the congress and declares full support for the Soviet program for the struggle to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons and to create an all-embracing system of international security, and wishes the Soviet people success in realizing the tasks set by the congress.

The DPRK minister of foreign affairs spoke of key problems in the DPRK's foreign policy, aimed at ensuring favorably international conditions to successfully build socialism in the north of Korea and bring about an independent peaceful country united on democratic principles.

In discussing questions of Soviet-Korean relations, mutual satisfaction was expressed at their steady development.

Comrade Shevardnadze stressed that the USSR will continue to persistently pursue the policy to consolidate and develop all-round cooperation with the DPRK, to support efforts and initiatives aimed at lessening military-political tension on the Korean peninsula, and to consolidate peace in Korea and achieve a peaceful united country.

DPRK ASSEMBLY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

LD261632 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1514 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar (TASS) — At the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a delegation from the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, headed by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Assembly, arrived on an official friendly visit in Moscow today.

JAPANESE SCIENTISTS' OPPOSITION TO SDI VIEWED

OW260536 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Igor Yelskiy commentary]

[Excerpts] The Science Council of Japan has voiced its opposition to the U.S. space militarization plan, better known as the star wars plan. In this connection, Moscow Radio commentator (Igor Yelskiy) made the following comment:

The refusal to participate in the realization of the SDI -- Strategic Defense Initiative -- plan, announced by this authoritative organization of Japanese scientists, was a reaction to the increasingly persistent attempt of Tokyo's official authorities to draw Japan into the realization of the star wars plan, which is dangerous to the cause of peace.

According to YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Washington is trying to lay a heavy financial burden for the realization of SDI on Japan and other allies. This was disclosed in an interview with (?Edward Teller), physicist and one of the advocates of the militarization of outer space, who is close to the White House. (?Teller's) statement corroborates the fact that the Pentagon -- the U.S. Defense Department -- intends to obtain an unlimited amount of Japanese high technology and capital. It also endorses the apprehension entertained by Japanese academic and industrial circles, which are worried that they may not be given anything in return. The most important thing is that the militarily aggressive star wars plan will not bring any benefit to the security of either the United States or its allies.

According to a recent opinion poll conducted among American physicists, a majority believes that the realization of SDI will lead to an expansion of nuclear armament.

Japanese scientists share their belief, and the statement by the Science Council of Japan declares that Japanese scientists, who represent a nation which experienced the tragedy of atomic-bomb attacks, find it impossible to help the star wars plan.

There is an alternative to the dangerous star wars plan. It is the Soviet Union's constructive and definite proposal, calling for cooperation in the peaceful development of space and the use of the gains in this sphere for the well-being of all mankind.

TASS ANALYST LINKS MEESE TRIP TO DRA WAR

LD261308 Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Follows commentary by Boris Shabeyev, a TASS political news analyst:

The visit to be paid by Edwin Meese, U.S. attorney general, to a camp of Afghan counter-revolutionaries climaxes the foreign tour by the high-ranking Washington official, He is to meet with inveterate cutthroats, whom Washington stubbornly describes as "freedom fighters," He is to read out there a special message from President Reagan addressed to these "fighters." It is precisely for the sake of this meeting at the U.S. President's personal request, that the attorney general went on his tour.

At first sight, this fact could be evaluated as an ordinary one, since countless figures from the entourage of the American President and from among his NATO supporters have favoured the Afghan counter-revolutionary rabble with their attention.

And yet Mr Meese's current meeting with the counter-revolutionaries is noteworthy in some respects. Judging by the reports in THE WASHINGTON TIMES it is to be held in conditions of tight security -- both the position of the camp and venue of the meeting itself are top secret, and the White House envoy himself is travelling under the guard of a whole army of FBI agents. Why is that so? There was a time when Western visitors willingly posed with binoculars in their hands in front of photo and television cameras on the Khyber Pass.

The point is that the situation in that area has fundamentally changed. The Pashtun tribes resident there have lost all patience any have resolutely come out against the use of their territory as a base of aggression against their brothers in Afghanistan, began driving out arms in hand the fosterlings of the CIA and the Pakistani services from bandit nests. This answeres the question of the tight security measures around Mr Meese.

A second factor worthy of attention is that even as Western journalists, who are far from sympathising with revolutionary Afghanistan, but are professionally honest, admit, the prestige and influence of the people's power is steadily growing in that country. People deceived by malicious propaganda are waking up to the facts and actively joining in the effort to build a new life, joining the ranks of its defenders. One can read about it in greater detail, in particular a detailed report of Jonathan Steel in the British GUARDIAN of March 17.

As a result the process of strengthening and broadening of the social base of the April Revolution and erosion of the forces of counter-revolution is gaining in strength. In recent times alone nearly 30 thousand counter-revolutionaries have ceased struggle and returned home. Many of them have joined the local detachments of defenders of the revolution.

Therefore, they in the West became fussy in an attempt at galvanising Afghan counter-revolution, instigating to fresh crimes, frustrate the efforts of the DRA Government, the United Nations Organization and peaceful states for a political settlement of the situation aroung Afghanistan. Edwin Meese's trip is a new link in the chain of irrefutable proofs of Washington's direct responsibility for continuing the undeclared war against the DRA. This also the course reaffirmed by the U.S. Administration for an extremely dangerous heightening of tensions in the world, which the USA is demonstrating in Libya, Nicaragua, South Africa and Southeast Asia.

MORE REPORTS ON ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN's VISIT

Voss Hosts Jotti

LD261704 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- "Parliamentarians of the Italian Republic are always welcome guests in our country," said Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He spoke today at a luncheon held in the Kremlin on behalf of the chairman of both chambers on the occasion of Leonilde Jotti's stay in the USSR. The president of the Chamber of Deputues of the Parliament of the Italian Republic is staying on an official visit in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"Much importance is attached in the USSR to the development of Soviet-Italian contacts on the parliamentary line," Avgust Voss went on. He stressed that the conversations of Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrey Gromyko with the Italian guest held during the visit had confirmed the striving of the Soviet side for the further development and consolidation of Soviet-Italian relations in the interests of European and international security. He said the consolidation of these contacts is of much importance for achieving a turn of events from confrontation to detente, for confidence-building, creation of a reliable security, stepping up actions against the transfer of the arms race to space and its terminiation on earth.

Leonilde Jotti pointed out that the cordial welcome accorded her in Moscow confirmed that friendship and goodneighbourliness are characteristic of relations of the peoples of the two countries. "We in Italy followed with close attention the work of the 27th CPSU Congress and regard it as an event of extreme importance, first of all due to the spirit of renewal manifested at the Congress," the guest said. Touching upon international problems, Leonilde Jotti declared:

"All countries regardless of the place they hold in world affairs, of membership of alliances, must promote the cause of peace in order to remove dangerous conflicts. It is necessary to assert new logic in international relations. The Soviet-U.S. summit meeting has led to the emergence of new elements that could result in concrete actions aimed at the easing of international tension," she said. "The program of the elimination of nuclear weapons set out in Mikhail Gorbachev's statement is also directed at achieving these aims," the guest said.

Talks Held

LD261708 Moscow TASS in English 1745 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 26 TASS -- "The prime aim of the Soviet state is to rid the world of threats and aggression, to base relations with others on the principles of equality and mutual respect," it was stated by Avgust Voss. The chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, had a meeting in the Kremlin today with Leonilde Jotti, chairman of the chamber of deputies of the Italian parliament. The meeting took place within the framework of her official visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet parliament.

"The struggle for lasting peace and international cooperation is the foundation of the USSR Supreme Soviet's foreign policy activity," Avgust Voss went on. The course of expanding ties with all those who oppose war was confirmed at the 27th CPSU congress.

"Following this course Soviet members of parliament strive to develop the dialogue with their Italian colleagues," he said.

Views were exchanged on questions concerning ways of strengthening peace, security and cooperation in Europe and on the contribution that parliaments could make to continuing and developing the Helsinki process. Leonilde Jotti informed her Soviet colleagues about the activities of the Italian Parliament and declared for the further development of ties with the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. She expressed gratitude for the possibility to visit the Soviet Union and spoke highly of her meetings and conversations with Mikhail Gorbachev and Andrey Gromyko.

In the course of the conversation confidence was expressed that the visit to the USSR by the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament will facilitate the deepening of mutual understanding between the peoples of the USSR and Italy, the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in various spheres. Taking part in the conversation were Vadim Zagladin, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Vladimir Karpov, member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, as well as officials accompanying Leonilde Jotti.

U.S. TAKES 'DISCRIMINATORY' POLICY TOWARD TURKEY

LD261230 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' talks in Ankara have ended without success. One of the main issues of the Turkish-U.S. meeting was to extend the bilateral agreement on cooperation in defense and the economy, which expired last December. In exchange for granting credits to Turkey, Washington once again attempted to get as many advantages as possible from Ankara and for its military bases on that country's territory. Turkey, however, is striving to put a stop to the U.S. discriminatory approach in the development of trade and economic ties.

HOWE ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE GREECE ON POLICY

LD240820 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Athens, March 24 TASS -- The British Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Geoffrey Howe, now on a visit in Greece, tried to put pressure on that country's government in order to make it give up its independent foreign policy course. During his talks with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and other cabinet ministers he spoke from tough pro-NATO positions and displayed dissatisfaction with the Greek Government's stand for detente and disarmament, for creating a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans. It is noted here that a new attempt by NATO to put pressure on the Greek leadership will be made during the forthcoming visit to Athens by the United States Secretary of State George Shultz.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

Gorbachev, Bendjedid Confer

LD261831 Moscow TASS in English 1819 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting in the Kremlin today with Chadli Bendjedi, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Chadli Bendjedid spoke highly of the nature and level of the relationship between the two friendly countries and peoples. They expressed profound satisfaction with the atmosphere of trust, mutual understanding and sympathy, which has been characteristic both of the communication between the leaders of the two states and parties and of the entire course of the Soviet-Algerian talks.

It was reaffirmed that relations between the USSR and Algeria are built on the basis of the long-term interests of both states and have good prospects for further all-round development. Shared readiness was voiced to solve any problems, which may crop up in these relations, in the manner customary with friendly countries.

Discussed during the conversation were the most important issues of bilaterial cooperation, acute regional problems of special interest to both countries, and the general international situation at the moment.

Discuss International Issues

LD262041 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party, held talks in the Kremlin today.

During the talks that passed in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding the sides exchanged information about the achievements of the U.S.S.R. and Algeria in the socio-economic development and about the tasks facing the peoples of both countries. The sides expressed satisfaction at the successful development of bilateral Soviet-Algerian cooperation.

The sides had a detailed exchange of opinions on problems pertaining to the existing international situation, including the latest Soviet initiatives aimed at averting the nuclear threat and terminating the arms race, at safeguarding and strengthening universal peace. The attention of the Algerian side was drawn to the program for the elimination of nuclear weapons formulated in the January 15, 1986 statement of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and to the proposals put forward by the 27th congress of the CPSU on the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security.

During the discussion of Mid-Eastern affairs the sides expressed preoccupation with the persisting explosive situation in that region. It was reaffirmed that a just and durable Middle East settlement could be achieved only on the principled basis, including the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the territories occupied since 1967, ensuring the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, and taking account of the legitimate interests of all countries and peoples of the region.

The participants in the talks came out in favor of scaled-up coordinated efforts of the Soviet Union and Algeria and other Arab countries toward the convocation of an international conference as a practical way for achieving a comprehensive, durable, and just settlement in the Middle East.

During the talks aggressive actions of the USA against the sovereign Libyan state were strongly condemned and solidarity with the Libyan people at that hour of difficulty for it was reaffirmed.

During the talks note was taken of the great importance of stronger cooperation of all progressive and peaceful forces in the efforts to avert the threat of nuclear war, enhance international security and ensure the rights of nations to independence and social progress. The sides emphasized that an important role in that respect belonged to the Nonaligned Movement the 8th summit conference of which would be held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, in 1986.

The discussion of urgent problems of the existing international situation, including the situation in the Middle East, in the Mediterranean region, on the African Continent and in other regions, confirmed the similarity or identity of positions of both sides.

The talks will continue.

Review CPSU Congress

LD261937 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] In the Kremlin today, talks were held between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Popular and Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front. Taking part were: on the USSR side, Comrade Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; Comrade Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and others. On the Algerian side were persons accompanying the Algerian president.

Mikhail Segeyevich Gorbachev spoke about the results of the work of the 27th CPSU Congress which adopted a new edition of the CPSU Program and confirmed amendments in the Party Rules and approved the Basic Gudelines of the USSR national economy for 1986-1990 and the period up to the year 2000. It was emphasized that the strategic line adopted and practical program for accelerating the socioeconomic development of the country and the course toward consolidating peace on earth were the main political result of the congress. Its decisions determine both the character and the tempo of movement of USSR society for the years and decades ahead.

For his part, Chadli Bendjedid spoke about the results of the extraordianry congress of the FLN Party and the national referendum which approved the new edition of the National Charter of the Algerian Popular and Democratic Republic which reaffirmed the Algerian people's adherence to the socialist option.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev highly assessed the successes achieved by Algeria in the cause of building a new society. Satisfaction was expressed at the successful development of bilateral USSR-Algerian cooperation.

Shevardnadze Meets Ibrahimi

LD270005 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Comrade Shevardnadze met Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the National Liberation Front Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. During the talks questions concerning the state and prospect for developing mutually advantageous USSR-Algerian cooperation were discussed as well as certain international problems of mutual interest. The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Kremlin Dinner Given

LD261847 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the USSR gave a dinner in the Grand Kremlin Palace today for Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party.

At the dinner, together with the Algerian leader and his wife, were state and party officials from Algeria. On the USSR side the dinner was attended by Comrades Gorbachev and his wife, Gromyko and his wife, Ryzhkov and his wife, Shevardnadze and his wife, Demichev, Sokolov, Talyzin, Dobrynin and Yakovlev; deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, chairmen of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, ministers of the USSR, chairmen of the USSR State Committees, and other officials.

At the dinner, speeches were made by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party. The speeches were listened to with great attention and greeted with prolonged applause. The dinner took place in a friendly atmosphere.

'Text' of Gorbachev Speech

LD261709 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Follows the full text of the speech delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today at the dinner in the Kremlin in honour of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Deomcratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party.

Dear friends, comrades, We are glad to greet in Moscow you, esteemed Comrade Chadli Bendjedid, our high and welcome guest, your wife Halima Bendjedid, and all the members of your delegation and those who accompany you.

We are discussing at the negotiating table a broad range of questions. They pertain both to bilateral Soviet-Algerian relations and to international problems. Our conversations are passing in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, as befits talks between friends. We think highly of the current state of Soviet-Algerian relations and are willing further to develop them.

The world today is complex and multifaceted, and we do not tire of pointing out this fact over and over again. Very different countries make up the world community today. Each of those countries has its own history, traditions, national features and specific characteristics. But all of them are standing up for their sovereignty and rightfully wishing to make a distinctive contribution to world politics. A realistic course cannot be pursued unless this fundamental characteristic of today's world is respected. I want to stress that understanding of this fact and respect for the interests of other states constitute the alfa and omega of Soviet foreign policy.

But it is also true that the internationalization of social, political and economic life that is characterisitc of our time and scientific and technical progress are linking the countries of the world ever more closely and facing them with common human problems ever more imperatively. The main one of them is, of course, the need to avert nuclear war. The hyman race has never before confronted the risk of self-destruction.

That is why there has never been such a vital need for cooperation in self-preservation and survival. The very preparations for nuclear war, in which there can be no winners, are putting an ever heavier burden on the peoples. The arms race is becoming a more and more serious obstacle to progress.

The Soviet Union, possessing advanced scientific knowledge, is well aware of the senseless and dangerous character of these developments. That is why we are raising the alarm and urging others, too to pursue responsible policies. We are urging them to give up the risky gamble with policy from strength and the crazy chase of the will-o'-the wisp of military superiority. The CPSU put forward at its 27th congress the concept of a comprehensive system of international security and formulated its fundamental principles. It is our conviction that all the states regardless of their ideological goals and potentials have an interest in the development of such a system.

We are going to work purposefully and tirelessly towards this goal. We are pleased to note that our honest stand is winning increasing support both among friends and in the world community as a whole, including non-aligned countries. The Soviet union attaches much importance to the positions of the Non-Aligned Movement, in which friendly Algeria is holding a prominent place. We hope that that movement will play an increasingly important role in world politics.

Regional problems, which are catalysts of local and international tension, also have independent significance which is vital to world development as a whole.

Though specific circumstances are vastly different, each of those problems, when all is said and done, hinges on the right of the peoples to decide their destinies independently. So these problems should be resolved without imperialist intervention, under conditions of respect for the independence and lawful aspirations of the peoples. We will never consent to difficulties faced by the peoples on the path of progress being used by external forces for exploiting and reactionary goals, be it in the Arab East, Latin America, Africa, Afghanistan or Southeast Asia.

Aggressive and provocative policy has recently been given in Washington a potent dope of a "doctrine of new globalism." They want to convince the world that the case in point is a new phase of struggle for "democracy" and against "communist expansion." But what they got away with in the past no longer works. The peoples have learned to see through the true plans of world reaction today.

They see that in reality it is the self-same imperial policy aimed at subordinating and enslaving, at subverting and suppressing national liberation movements and regimes disliked by America. However hard they try, they will never succeed in portraying as champions of democracy either the Somozista cutthroats, or the mercenaries and bandits in Angola and Mozambique, or the bosses of apartheid, or the Pol Pot men, instigators of genocide, or those who blow up schools and mosques in Afghanistan, or the U.S. invaders and their stooges in Grenada. The thrust of the "doctrine of new globalism" is complete disregard for the commonly recognized norms of international relations, encorachment on the sovereignty of states and the erstwhile futile attempt to deny the peoples the right to organize their lives as they see fit.

The imperial, bandit face of neoglobalist policy as become clearly visible in the past few days. The day before yesterday, American weapons were used against independent and sovereign Libya. Now the USA is not stinting words to justify that act of aggression. Facts irrefutably show, however, that it is not an unexpected incident but a "punitive" operation conceived and planned in advance.

It is not today that Libya has become a target. The provocative and threatening manoeuvres of American ships off its coast have become permanent. And what about a trade, financial and technological blockade of Libya and other discriminatory measures against it? They can only be qualified as economic terror! And look at the psychological and propaganda warfare that has been waged against Libya over the months!

The actions of the United States constitute a challenge to the world public as a whole and an encroachment on commonly recognized civilized relations. This policy is provoking regional conflicts and jeopardizing international peace and security. It is directed against all the independent peoples and contravenes the interests of the American people as well.

We resolutely denounce the aggressive anti-Libyan actions of the USA. The Soviet Union is in solidarity with the Libyan people, standing up for their sacred right to freedom and independence from imperialist encorachments.

Now that our Algerian friends are present here, I would like to touch upon the situation in the Mediterranean as a whole. The situation here affects many countries, including the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union stands for making the Mediterranean, the cradle of many civilizations, into a zone of stable peace and cooperation. Our proposals for extending agreed confidence-building measures to cover that region, reduced armed forces, withdrawing ships carrying nuclear weapons from the Mediterranean, renouncing the deployment of such weapons in the territories of Mediterranean non-nuclear countries, and for the nuclear powers to make a commitment not to use such weapons against any Mediterranean country that does not allow their stationing in its territory remain in force.

We are prepared to go even further. For the Soviet Union in principle there is no need to have its naval fleet in the Mediterranean on a permanent basis. It has to keep its ships there permanently for this sole reason: The U.S. 6th Fleet armed with nuclear-missile weapons and threatening the security of the USSR. Its allies and friends is in the immediate proximity of our borders.

If the United States, which is situated thousands upon thousands of miles from the Mediterranean, pulled its fleet out of there, the Soviet Union would simultaneously do the same. We are prepared without delay to enter talks on the issue.

At this first stage there would be imposed no restrictions on the naval activities and naval armaments of the coastal Mediterranean states themselves. Further steps to strengthen security in the region could, in our opinion, be determined with account taken of the Soviet proposals made in the statement of January 15, 1986, on the abolition of weapons of mass destruction.

In the Soviet Union the initiatives of the non-aligned Mediterranean countries, which are going to hold their second conference on Malta this year, are treated with understanding. We believe that a useful role would be played also by a broader conference similar to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Apart from the Mediterranean states and the states adjoining the region, it could be attended also by the United States and other interested countries.

Fuelled by Israel's aggressive ambitions and Washington's anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian policy, tension continues unabated in the Middle East. Latest developments have demonstrated once again the untenability of the separate, capitulatory deals imperialists and related quarters are prodding Arabs into. We are for defusing the confict situation in the Middle East with consideration given to the rightful interests of all states and peoples located there. The Soviet Union continues to regard convening an international conference with the equal participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO, as offering a reliable path towards this goal.

The '80s have been marked by mounting crisis trends in the economies of African states. Their development has been significantly complicated by the West's stepped-up neocolonialist exploitation of their natural resources, worsening conditions for barter in world markets, and the imperialists states' striving to lay the consequences of their crises on the peoples and shift the burden of the arms race onto their shoulders. Solving these problems requires the participation of all states, regardless of how different their ideological views, economic posssibilities and the sizes of their territories and population may be.

The militarism-imposed principle "armament instead of development" should give way to a different principle, namely "disarmament for development". We see the economic security of states as part and parcel of an all-embracing system of international security.

We suggest holding a world congress to discuss as a package everything that encumbers world economic relations, including such issues as foreign debt, the switching of funds released as a result of cuts in arms and military budgets over to supplying development needs, and projects for a new world economic order.

Comrades, the foundations of relations between the Soviet Union and Algeria were laid down way back during the years of the Algerian people's liberation struggle. Today we express satisfaction with their successful ongoing development. And we are convinced that the equitable and mutually beneficial Soviet-Algerian cooperation has broad prospects. We attach special significance to links between the CPSU and the FLN Party for efficient interaction and friendly mutual understanding between our two states and peoples. These links also enhance our solidarity in the common anti-imperialist struggle.

Together with the Algerian people we rejoice at their successes in consolidating national independence, laying a solid groundwork for the national economy, establishing a state sector and solving a number of complex social problems. We are pleased that a certain contribution to this has been made by Soviet specialists working hand in hand with their Algerian brothers.

In the Soviet Union much importance is given to the fact that during a recent referendum the Algerian people reaffirmed their socialist choice. They may count on the Soviet Union's continued support in tackling the tasks of economic and cultural development, in the training of national personnel and in other fields.

Let me once again greet from the bottom of my heart Comrade Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party, his wife and all Algerian delegation and accompanying persons.

I wish sound health and success to all Algerian and Soviet comrades present here.

Report on Bendjedid Speech

LD262225 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Algerian-Soviet relations are marked by the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding. They rest on political trust and are characterized by positive dynamics of economic, scientific and technical ties, said Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party. He made a speech in the Kremlin today at a dinner given in his honor by the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet Government.

Expressing satisfaction at the character and volume of Algerian-Soviet cooperation, the Algerian leader said, we still believe that not all reserves have been tapped in this sphere and not all possibilities have been exhausted. This is why efforts should continue in the future to expand it and made it conform to the economic possibilities and the pace of developments of our countries.

Chadli Bendjedid said: The development of current international relations as a whole -- both political and economic -- causes our profound concern. A very dangerous situation has taken shape on earth as a consequence of political and economic instability. The arms race increasingly undermines the security of humankind, depriving it of valuable resources necessary to ensure prosperity for all. Persisting tension and aggravating conflicts in different regions of the world contradict the striving of nations for peace and well-being. The continuing existence of seats of imperialist and racial dominance demonstrates with all clarity the degree of anomaly of the situation in the international community and bears evidence to the deepening gap in the levels of development.

Pursuing the policy of true nonalignment, Algeria honors its commitments as a member of the Nonaligned Movement and remains loyal to the principles tempered in the fire of the national-liberation war. The completion of the process of elimination of colonialism, the establishment of a new international economic order, the attainment of disarmament, the ensuring of collective security, world-wide, the assertion of the principles of peaceful settlement of conflicts and the elimination of tensions -- all this makes up the foundation on which Algeria's activities on the international scene rest.

In this respect, Chadli Bendjedid said, Algeria is concerned to the utmost over the current events in the Mediterranean. The use of methods of violence and aggression acquired a new scope in that region. The Arab nation is subjected to threats and aggression, as was the case in Tunisia yesterday and as is the case in Libya today. Algeria condemns the aggression staged against Libya. It solidarizes with the fraternal Libyan people at that hour of difficulty for it.

The lesson that should be learnt from the current events evidently is that the Mediterranean should become a zone of peace and cooperation. Algeria has always made efforts to achieve that goal and the current disquieting development of events only makes it more determined in its striving for that.

By virtue of its natural belonging to Africa and the Arab world Algeria is concerned with the problems of these two regions and proceeds from the close interrelationship of their struggle. We are aware of the obstacles into which the liberation process runs both in the Middle East and the South Africa as a consequence of the aggressive character of the racist and expansionist regimes that serve as allies and props of imperialism.

The Middle East that has become a region of permanent tension is in the state of a crisis fraught with a threat to international peace and security. To defuse that crisis, Chadli Bendjedid emphasized, it is necessary to call an international conference with the full-fledged participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization which is the sole representative of the Palestinian people empowered to decide its destiny.

ENVOY TO IRAN MEETS VELAYATI, DISCUSSES LIBYA

LD271046 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] March 27, Tehran -- The Soviet Union Ambassador to Tehran, V.K. Boldyrev, in a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday, explained stance of his government towards recent U.S. aggression against Libya. He also urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to make efforts and cooperate for the establishment of peace in southern Mediterranean. The Soviet diplomat also called on Iran to support the Soviet efforts in the emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Boldyrev expressed concern of his country over restrictions created for the Soviet diplomats by the U.S. Administration in the United Nations. He hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran will take measures against such expansionist policies.

Velayati said that Iran held a similar view on the U.S. aggression against Libya and the Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly condemned the U.S. action and calls for an all-out support for Libya. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he told the Soviet diplomat, will do whatever possible to protect independence and national sovereignty of Libya.

As for the U.S. restrictions on certain countries in the United Nations, he said that U.S. has exerted such pressures on Iran in post-revolutionary period. Iran, he added, protests against any pressure or influence of any country in the United Nations and has voiced its opposition in this respect.

During the meeting expansion of bi-lateral relations in all fields were discussed.

ARABS EXPRESS 'PROFOUND INDIGNATION' AT U.S. ACTS

LD261605 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Mar 86

[North Africa correspondent Yevgeniy Lukyanov report]

[Text] The piratical attack by the U.S. military on the Libyan Jamahariya has evoked profound indignation in Arab countries.

It is viewed here as a most crude violation of all the norms of international law. The Washington administration, no longer restricting itself to the campaign of threats, blackmail and provocations which have continued incessantly for 3 months, has gone on to direct military actions against that Arab state, whose anti-imperialist policy has long caused irritation in the White House. The bombing of the suburb of the town of Surt by U.S. aircraft based on vessels of the U.S. 6th Fleet assembled off Libya's shores, was a preplanned armed operation arising from the policy of international terrorism conducted by Washington.

In connection with the act of direct armed aggression against the neighboring Libyan Jamahariya undertaken by the United States, the Algerian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement which stresses the unjustified nature of the U.S. action, which is extremely dangerous for the peoples of ther region. Algeria, the statement says, expresses its deep concern and disquiet at the dangerous development of events, and is in total solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people who are defending their gains and the sovereignty of their homeland.

The broad wave of protests and condemnations of the U.S. criminal aggression and of demands that provocations against Libya should cease which has swept the whole world, has by all accounts not found any response in the thoughts of those who rule in Washington. The Pentagon's war games in the Mediterranean have grown into a dangerous playing with fire which cannot fail to causes alarm for all the whom peace and security in the world are dear.

PALESTINIAN GROUP SUPPORTS AL-QADHDHAFI

LD231855 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli March 23 TASS -- Unceasing threats and armed provocations by Washington against sovereign Libya are part of the state terrorism policy pursued by the American Administration against peaceloving nations in various parts of the world. Nayif Hawatimah, the general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said. A spate of provocative manoeuvres by the American military near Libyan shores, Washington's economic sanctions and the rabid anti-Libyan campaign, he pointed out in a telegram to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, are aimed at forcing the people and the Libyab leadership to abandon their antiimperialist course in the international arena and the principled stand on the Middle Eastern problem. Hawatimah expressed solidarity of the Palestinian people with the people of Libya upholding their sovereignty and independence.